

# NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANEA

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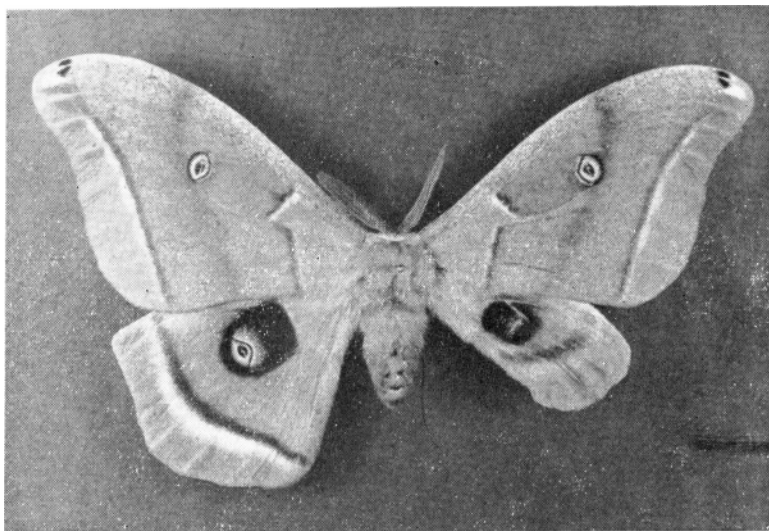
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## An Interesting Abnormality in a Polyphemus Moth

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The occasion for this note is a curious deformity in a polyphemus moth, *Telea polyphemus* Cramer, collected by Hudson Winn during the summer of 1948 in Evanston, Illinois. The specimen was captured at night when it flew to a lighted window of the zoology building on the campus of Northwestern University. It is now deposited in the university's collection. The following is a description of the abnormality in a male polyphemus moth.



The right hind wing (Fig. 1) is much smaller than the normal left hind wing, but the characteristic markings of the wing are present. The wing has not developed sufficiently to show the transparent area, but indications of it

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are present in the form of a minute spot of yellow, a light blue area, and a great deal of black coloring which normally surrounds the window-like spot.

The venation of the deformed wing is incomplete. Only four large veins are present. Assuming that the black area is in the same relative position as in a natural wing, the vein above the spot is  $M_2$  or  $M_1$  and the vein below is  $Cu_1$  or  $Cu_e$ . Following this supposition, neither the media nor the cubitus is branched. The other veins present then are the subcosta and radius. There is also a suggestion of the discal vein and an anal vein.

Taking the above facts into consideration it would seem that the deformity was developmental; that is, the amount of growth was affected chiefly, while the differentiation process continued to a more normal end product.

I am indebted to Professor Orlando Park for calling my attention to this moth, and to Professors Park and F. A. Brown for aid in its interpretation.